(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The length of the MG line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh and Tinsukia is 545 km and conversion to broad gauge was estimated to cost Rs. 327 crores as per 1986 Survey Report.

Auction of right to supply Porters at Madras Airport

793. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the right to supply porter manpower at Madras airport has been auctioned; and

(b) what is the total number of porters allowed to be pressed into service at National Terminal and Internal Terminal, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) IAAI provide free porterage service at international airports for the benefit of needy passengers such as aged, physically handicapped, unaccompanied ladies etc. Madras Airport, M/s. Ex-Servicemen Airlink Transport Service have been engaged to provide porters for this service.

(b) 6 porters each have been deployed at the Domestic and International Terminals at Madras Airport. There is also a provision of one leave reserve.

Maintenance of Palm Leaf Manuscripts in Bhubaneswar Museum

794. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some rare palm leaf manuscripts are lying in a dilapidated condition at present in Bhubaneswar museum;

(b) whether the maintenance and preservation of those manuscripts are very necessary; and

(c) if so, what is the assistance so far extended by the Centre for the proper preservation, editing and publication of those manuscripts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) It is understood that Bhubaneswar museum has got a number of rare palm leaf manuscripts which need further preservation measures and phased publishing. There is no scheme under which assistance can be given by the Department of Culture to State owned museums. Therefore, it had been suggestd to the State Govt. to draw up a project for preservation, editing and publication of these manuscripts and put up for allocation of funds before the Planning Commission.

Construction of Hostel for Working Women at Jamshedpur

795. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had sanctioned about Rs. 5.5 lakh in November, 1986 towards construction of a hostel for working women by the 'Arjun Mahila Shilp Kendra, at Jamshedpur (Bihar) and had also advanced to it the first instalment of more than Rs. 1.4 lakh for the completion of the project;

(b) whether the project and the Mahila Kendra have been found to be a fraud; if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) what are the names of the guilty persons and action taken against each of them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) On the recommendations of the State Government of Bihar the Ministry approved a grant-in-aid of Rs. 5,64,188/- for the construction of a hostel building for 30 working women by Arjun Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra at Jamshedpur at an estimated cost of Rs. 7,52,250/- on 18 June, 1986. Simultaneously, an amount of Rs. 1,41,047/- was released as first instalment of grant-in-aid, as per provisions of the Scheme.

(b) and (c) On a complaint, an enquiry was conducted through the State Government of Bihar, which brought out certain irregularities. Therefore, the amount of Rs. 1,41,047/- alongwith interest has since been recovered from the agency. A ban has also been imposed on further grants to this Organisation.

Area in adverse possession of Bangladesh

796. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 1989 and state:

(a) the exact area of Assam presently under the adverse possession of Bangladesh indicating the location and since when it is under their possesson; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government so far to get back this area and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) According to information provided by the Government of Assam, approximately 761.81 acres are under the adverse possession of Bangladesh, in the Dhubri, Cacher and Karimganj districts. This land has been in the adverse possession of Bangladesh since before the formation of Bangladesh. Certain small areas of Bangladesh have also been in India's adverse possession.

(b) The Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 provides that areas in adverse possession of either country may be exchanged after the Agreement is ratified. As the Agreement has not been ratified so far, this matter has not progressed further.

Estimated profit/losses of Indian Airlines and Air India

797. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated profit/loss of Indian Airlines and Air India (separately) during the year 1988-89; and

(b) how does it compare with that during the previous year and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During 1988-89, Indian Airlines and Air India have earned provisional net profit of Rs. 14.10 crores and Rs. 30 crores respectively.

(b) Indian Airlines had made a net profit of Rs. 30.10 crores during 1987-88. The decline in profitability during 1988-89 has been mainly due to cost escalation, non-availability of leased aircraft and grounding of aircraft, steep increase in the exchange rate of US dollars, increase in landing and navigational charge, payment of additional grants-in-aid to IGRUA etc.